

LIBRARY

ROTHWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1951

Urban District of Rothwell

Members of the Public Health Committee :

1951 - 52.

Councillor A. Clipstone (*Chairman*).

Councillors S. B. Kimbell, F. T. Lee, T. Nichols and F. J. W. West.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of Burton Latimer, Corby, Desborough, the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northampton Council Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

A. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., CERT.S.I.B.

Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING.

July, 1952.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for 1951.

The crude death-rate of 16.58 is the highest recorded since 1939, however, analysis of the 76 deaths shows that 45 of these occurred in people over 70 years of age of whom 17 were over 80 years and three over 90 years, being 93, 94 and 98 years old.

It is pleasing to record that for the first time since 1939 no infant deaths occurred in the Urban District. The Infantile mortality rate is a very sensitive barometer of environmental and social conditions in a district and this result is a source of satisfaction to the ante-natal, midwifery and health visiting services.

Since 1939 three cases of diphtheria have been notified, one in 1942, one in 1943 and one in 1944. This diminution in the number of diphtheria notifications has been repeated throughout the Country ; whereas in 1944 23,199 corrected notifications of diphtheria were received with 934 deaths, in 1951 669 cases were notified with 34 deaths. The results have been solely due to immunisation against diphtheria and not due to its elimination in the community and it is essential that a high level of immunisation of at least up to 75% among infants is maintained.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their keenness and support and also for the help and co-operation of the Clerk and Sanitary Surveyor.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1947, 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Area (acres)	3638	3638	3638	3638	3638
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4747	4685	4677	4671	4584
Number of Live Births	91	72	75	50	67
Legitimate	85	69	73	48	66
Illegitimate	6	3	2	2	1
Birthrate per 1,000 population	19.17	15.36	16.03	10.70	14.61
Number of Still Births	—	2	1	2	—
Legitimate	—	2	1	2	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	27.02	13.15	38.46	—
Rate per 1,000 population	—	0.42	0.21	0.42	—
Number of Deaths	51	66	54	61	76
Death rate per 1,000 population ...	10.74	14.08	11.54	13.05	16.58
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	21.97	27.77	40.00	20.00	—
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	—	—	—
*Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	1	5	1	1	2
*Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	3	1	1	2
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms ...	4	9	7	8	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—

*Registrar-General's Figures.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1951

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 live Births					
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Tuber- culosis	Influenza	Small-Pox	Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio- encephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year					
England and Wales ...	15.5	0.36	12.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.31	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.61	1.4	29.6					
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.3	0.45	13.4	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.37	0.36	0.00	0.01	0.65	1.6	33.9					
148 Smaller Towns																		
estd. resident popu- lations, 25,000 —			12.5															
50,000	16.7	0.38	2.15	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.31	0.38	0.00	0.01	0.63	1.0	27.6					
London	17.8	0.37	13.1	—	0.01	0.00	0.38	0.23	—	0.00	0.61	0.7	26.4					
Rothwell																		
Urban District ...	15.5	—	13.9	—	—	—	0.43	2.16	—	—	—	—	—					
The Maternal Mortality rates for :																		
Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium			Abortion with toxæmia			Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium			Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth		Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia		Abortion with sepsis		Other complications of Pregnancy, child-birth and the puerperium			
England and Wales per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births			0.10			0.00			0.24		0.13		0.05		0.09		0.18	
Rothwell Urban District ...			—			—			—		—		—		—		—	

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	3,638
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ...	4,584
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to Rate Book	1,540
Rateable Value	£20,547
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£76

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—
Boot and Shoe manufacture, ironstone mining and manufacture of agricultural implements.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	66	29	37
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	67	29	39
Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated population ... ..		...	14.61

STILL BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	Nil	Nil	Nil

DEATHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	76	36	40
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...			16.58
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected)			13.92
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			—
Death-rate of infants under one year of age—			
All infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			—
All infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			—
Deaths from malignant neoplasms			12
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis			—

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1951 was 0.84. The crude death rate per 1,000 population for 1951 was 16.58 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.84 supplied by the Registrar-General gives a corrected death-rate of 13.92. This rate of 13.92 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Rothwell Urban District was distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1951

A comparability factor has been issued for 1951 by the Registrar-General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Rothwell and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	...	14.61
Rothwell						
corrected by comparability factor	1.06					15.48
England and Wales	...	...	...			15.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1951

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
England and Wales	...	...	...			29.6

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	36	40	76
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases						—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms						1	4	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	5	13
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6

Registered causes of death—*continued*.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
25.	Other disease of the respiratory system		—	—	—
26.	Ulcer and stomach duodenum	...	3	—	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		1	4	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of the Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—No bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton or by the Kettering General Hospital during 1951.

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—The County Council became responsible for ambulance services from 5th July, 1948. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—From 5th Ju.y, 1948 the County Council became responsible for the Home Nursing Service. Details of the work carried out during 1951 were not made available to the Local Authority.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—Immunisation against Diphtheria was offered to children up to 15 years of age. The following were immunised during 1951 :—

Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	24
5 to 14 years	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	25
					<hr/>
Boosters	...	...	...	...	59

The number of children who have had the full course of immunisation is as follows :—

Age at 31.12.51.	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
No. Immunised	2	35	39	32	42

Age at 31.12.51.	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total
i.e. Born in Year	1942 - 46	1937 - 41	under 15
No. Immunised	292	310	752

Estimated Mid-Year population of children aged 0 - 4 years 365

Estimated Mid-Year population of children aged 5 - 14 years 602

VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year :

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary ...	4	—	—	—	—
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	1	1

SECTION C. Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Water Supply.—The supply and distribution of water is now entirely managed by the Mid-Northants Water Board.

No reports of water shortage were received during the year.

Rainfall.—The rainfall during 1951 was 29.97 inches, which was the highest rainfall since 1937 when 30.88 inches of rain was recorded.

Water Analysis.—Two samples of town's water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service and both were reported to be very satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Extensions of Sewer.—The Daisy Bank Avenue 9 inch sewer was extended to the top of Manor Road—a distance of 150 yards.

The Underwood Road 9 inch sewer was extended to the junction of Daisy Bank Avenue with Manor Road—a distance of 200 yards.

A new junction into the head of the Harrington Road 9 inch sewer was laid up to the junction of Underwood Road with Manor Road—a distance of 180 yards.

Also a new 6 inch sewer was laid along the Cul-de-sac to the junction with Manor Road—a distance of 90 yards.

All these new sewers were laid to drain the new housing site of 70 houses—a total distance of new sewers being 620 yards.

Sewage Disposal Works.—The sewage disposal plant continues to work efficiently and produce a clear final effluent in spite of the increased dry weather flow and heavy storm water received during a wet year.

The new sewage works attendant has shown great interest in his work and has carried out his duties efficiently, executing a number of improvements to the works.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Complaints received	...	...	...	403
Nuisance Inspections	...	...	...	115
Housing Inspections	...	...	...	288
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	8
Food Shops Inspections	...	...	...	19
Food Warehouse Inspections	...	...	...	7
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	4
School Canteen Inspections	...	...	...	3
Rodent Infestations	...	...	...	45
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	108
Housing Defects Remedied	...	...	...	291

Number of Notices Served

INFORMAL	Nuisance	...	...	...	13
	Housing	...	...	...	Nil
STATUTORY	Nuisance	...	...	...	3

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house and trade refuse has been maintained excepting for holiday periods.

The Karrier Bantam refuse vehicle continues to give good service.

Controlled Tipping.—The Thorpe Underwood Controlled Tip is a great asset to the town and is proving a very successful acquisition.

By covering the refuse with quarry soil no nuisance is caused by smells and the harbourage for vermin is reduced.

Salvage Collections.—The waste paper received in the early months of the year showed promise of a record yield, but when on 1st June the price rose from £10. 10s. to £16 per ton, there was much competition for waste paper from all kinds of organisations and private individual collectors who were taking advantage of this lucrative pastime.

It is, however, a compliment to your collectors that the tonnage only fell by just over 1 ton below the high figure of the previous year.

A total of 52 tons 18 cwts. of waste paper was despatched to the mills during the year bringing in a revenue of £706 as against £291 for 54 tons in 1950.

Annual Tonnage of Waste Paper—

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
1946	...	...	33	4	2
1947	...	...	22	18	0
1948	...	...	52	9	1
1949	...	...	51	15	1
1950	...	...	54	0	1
1951	...	...	52	18	0

Meat and Food Inspection.—Of the cottagers' pigs slaughtered in the district, no carcase or organ was found to be infected with any disease or condition which would render the flesh unfit for human consumption, and it is gratifying to note the healthy condition of these animals.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption, consequently being surrendered and destroyed :

Canned Ham	30 lbs.	Canned Tomatoes	12 lbs.
Canned Milk	12 lbs.	Canned Peas	4 lbs.
Canned Meat	5 lbs.	Cheese	... 5 lbs.

Housing.—18 new houses were completed by the Council during the year, and a start was made on 12 houses by the Northamptonshire and District Housing Society, and 16 by the Council.

One house was demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and four other houses were demolished as dangerous structures.

Milk Samples.—21 samples of milk were taken from milk vendors in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service to be examined for keeping quality and tested by the Methylene Blue reduction test with the following results :—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	20
Bad	...	...	...	1
				—
				21

Public Swimming Bath.—A wet summer giving no inducement to open air bathing except for the hardiest of bathers, was reflected in a reduction in the number of bathers as compared with the previous year. The bath water was kept fresh throughout the summer and treated daily with chlorine to keep it clean and free from impurities.

Frequent Orthotolidine tests were made to obtain an average residual chlorine content 1 part per million, which causes no discomfort to the bathers.

Between June and September, the following bathers paid for admission to the bath :—

Boys	817	Girls	380	
Men	133	Women	38	Total 1368.

(Total for 1950 was 1947).

Rodent Control.—45 infestations of rats were successfully dealt with by your Rodent Operator, mostly at piggeries and under poultry huts. 103 bodies were found after treatment, and many more would die in their holes and runs.

12 manholes were test baited but no evidence of infestations were found.

Factories Act, 1937.—There are thirty-five factories on the Register—twelve inspections were made and of seven defects found all were remedied.

The number of outworkers in August 1951 was 35.

SECTION D. Infectious Diseases.

There were 169 cases of infectious diseases notified of which measles accounted for 121 and whooping cough 40. The measles epidemic occurred during the summer and autumn. The degree of infectivity of these diseases can be judged by the fact that a neighbouring Urban District had a measles outbreak of the same proportion as Rothwell but had only two cases of whooping cough during the year.

One case of whooping cough and two cases of scarlet fever were removed to hospital. All the cases of infectious diseases recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925. These empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1951.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 61 and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

There were five cases of respiratory tuberculosis and two cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year. Three of the cases of respiratory tuberculosis were discovered at the Mass Radiography Survey and as these patients were almost symptomless it affords further proof of the benefit of such surveys in ascertaining earlier cases thus initiating treatment when it is most effective and preventing spread of the disease. The non-respiratory cases occurred in children—one male aged 5 years had tuberculosis of bone and joint of left hip, dorsal spine and right knee and one female aged 8 years had tuberculosis of abdomen. It is sad that children are still subject to this crippling disease which is very seldom due to human agency but in the vast majority of cases due to bovine tubercle bacilli. These organisms obtain entrance to the human body by ingestion of milk and can be efficiently destroyed by pasteurisation.

The number of cases in the Register at the end of 1951 was 32, of which 23 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

19th — 29th November, 1951

This was the third survey undertaken by the Mass Radiography Unit.

A. Type of Survey—Firms, Schools and General Public.

B. Percentage Responses—Firms, 71% ; Schools 89%.

Summary of Findings of Newly Discovered Cases of Significant Tuberculosis in the Rothwell Survey.

Group	No. X-Rayed	No. of Newly Discovered Significant Cases of Tuberculosis			
		Active	Rate per Thousand	Inactive	Rate per Thousand
Firms	608	3		1	
General Public	347	—		6	
Schools	31	—		—	
Boot and Shoe (included above) ...	542	3		1	
TOTALS ...	986	3	3.04	1	1.01

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1951

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	—	5	30	59	23	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	121
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	12	7	6	2	—	40
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	7
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	—	5	30	60	24	4	13	12	7	6	3	5	169

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1951

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Measles	1	9	14	16	29	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	121	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	3	3	2	6	8	15	1	1	—	—	1	—	40	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	2	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	12	17	22	38	71	2	1	—	—	2	—	169	3	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1951

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	1	1
15—	—	3	—	—
25—	1	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	3	1	1

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1951

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	—	—	—

